HIS

MAIESTIES

ROYALL and LAST

DECLARATION,

To all His loving Subjects in

ENGLAND;

Vindicating His Majesties Affections, Intentions, and Actions, from any Inclination to Popery.

Published by His Majesties speciall Command.

OXFORD,
Printed by *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the famous Vniversity. 1642.

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OXFORD,

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His Majesties Royall and last Declaration to all his loving Subjects in England, vindicating His Majesties affection, intention, and action, from any inclination to Popery.

WE know not what should beget your misunderstandings misbeleefes, jealousies and feares of Us and Our actions, whether it bee your infidelity or disloyalty wee judge not, but your ungrounded suspition of Us and Our intentions, is a secret condemnation of your selves. We have opend Our Royall breast unto you, that you might cleerely see how wee intend to sway Our Sceptet in Justice and equity, and to govern Our Subjects according to the knowne lawes of the Land, that the liberty of the Subject, & the true Protestant Religion may be preserved from the distruction impendant over them under the colour of pretended Reformation: How often have I engaged my word and faith (which I hold as deere as life, or the love of my Subjects) that all my thoughts and actions scandalized by false constructions have had no other end but such as are just Royall, and pious; and howsoever some malevolent spirits have endeavoured to throw aspersions on Us, heaven is just and will shoot back the arrowes of their malice on their heads, while Wee being rightly understood in Our Royall and cleere intents, shall need no other vindication but our owne integrity, which all Our loving Subjects may evidently behold in Our many printed Declarations and Protestations published in these particulers following.

First concerning Our being affected to Popery, We protest in the word of a King, and call the searcher of all hearts to record, that We intend not the alteration of the true professed and established Protestant Religion, the Lawes of the Kingdome, the knowne libertie of the Subject, the right and just Priviledges of Parliament. Of the Lawes his Majesty saith thus: A new power hath been assumed to enterpret and declare Lawes without Us, by extemporary votes, tending to a pure arbitrary power: Ordinances, and Orders were pressed upon the people as Lawes, and their obedience required to them. His Majesty saith further, We do beleeve and accordingly profesle to all the world, that the malignity of this designe (as dangerous to the Lawes of this Kingdome, the power of the same, and the Liberties of all Our good Subjects, as to Our selfe, and Our just Prerogative) hath proceeded from the subtil informations and evill Counsells of ambitious, turbulent Spirits, disaffected to Gods true Religion, and the unity of the Professours thereof, Our Honour and safety, and the publick peace and prosperity

of Our people. His Majesty addeth further: But how faulty soever others are, We shall (with Gods assistance) endeavour to discharge Our duty in true uprightnesse of heart. The King goes on further in declaring his owne candor and uprightnesse, together with affronts offered unto Him, saying thus, they endeavour to turn this government into a new *Eutopia* of Religion and therefore Wee are resolved to change none of Our trusty Officers, till they appeare to have behaved themselves otherwise then they ought to have done, and bee evicted by legall proceedings to have done so. We were ever willing that Our Parliament should debate, resolve, and transact such matters as are now proper for them, and We heartily wish that the course of Law bee no waies diverted, much lesse disturbed. Moreover we call God to witnesse that as for our Subjects sakes all rights are vested in Us, so for their sakes as well as for Our owne, We are resolved not to quit them, nor to subvert (though in a Parliamentary way) the ancient, just constitution of the Government of this Kingdome, nor to make Our selfe of a King of *England* a Duke of *Venice*, and this of a Kingdome, a Republick. Besides the Kings Majesty saith fuurther, *Nolumus leges Angliæ mutari*, We promise that We will be as carefull of preserving the Lawes in what doth concerne Our Subjects, as in what most concernes Our selfe, for We professe to beleeve that the preservation of every Law concernes Us. We have by many of Our messages to you by Our voluntary promise to you, so solemnly made, never to pardon any popish Priest by Our strict Proclamation which lately published in this point, sufficiently expressed Our zeale herein. We will also with constancy maintaine (while we live) The Protestant Religion in its purity and glory, not onely against all invasions of Popery, but also from the irreverence of Schismaticks, and Separatists, wherewith this Kingdome of late, and Our City of *London* abounds, to the great dishonour and hazzard, both of Church and Sate. To conclude, We conjure you, and all men to rest satisfied with the truth of Our professions and the reality of Our intentions. And then We shall receive much more in the hope of a full and constant happinesse of our people in the true Religion, and under the protection of the same by a blessed union between Us and Our Parliament, and so much desired by Us, then any increase of Our owne Revenue, which beyond former grants of Our Subjects when most wealthy, could by our Parliament be settled upon Us. Thus We in all Our Protestations and Messages desire the good of the Kingdome, before Our own private interest.

His Majesty saith further, We professe before and declare to all the world, that We alwaies have and did abhorre all such designes, but that all Our endeavours (according to Our many Professions) did and shall ever tend to the firme and constant settlement of the true Protestant Religion, the just Priviledges of Parliament, the Liberty of the Subject, the Lawes, Peace and prosperity of this Kingdome.

In a Letter from His Majesty to both houses of Parliament, the conclusion you may reade thus.

If all these present distractions (which so apparently threaten the ruine of this Kingdome) do not (by the blessing of almighty God) end in a happy and blessed accommodation, His Majesty will then be ready to call heaven and earth, God and man to witnesse that he hath not failed on his part.

I am confident that you expect not I should give a speedy answer to this strange and unexpected Declaration, that in the distraction of this Kingdome you should think this way of addresse more convenient, then that proposed by my message the 20 of January last to both Houses: as concerning your feares and jealousies, I will take time to answer particularly, and doubt not but I shall do it to the satisfaction of the whole world. God in his good time will discover the secrets and bottomes of all plots and treasons; and then I shall stand right in the eyes of my people. God so deale with me and mine, as all my thoughts and intentions are upright, for the maintenance of the true Protestant profession, and for the observation, and preservation of the Lawes of this Land, and I hope God will blesse and assist those Lawes for my preservation.

When we duly weigh the dishonour which will perpetually lie upon this Kingdome, if full and speedy relief be not dispatched, We could not nor cannot think of a better way to discharge Our duty to almighty God, for the defence of the true Protestant profession, or to manifest Our affection to Our three Kingdomes, then by ingaging Our Person in this Expedition, as many of Our royall Progenitors have done even in forraigne parts, upon causes of lesse importance and piety, with great honour to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdome.

For the danger of Our Person, We conceive it necessary and Worthy of a King to adventure his life to preserve His Kingdome, neither can it be imagined, that We will sit still, and suffer Our Kingdome to be lost, and Our good Protestant Subjects to be massacred, without exposing Our Person to the utmost hazzard for their relief and preservation.

God, in his good time, We hope, will so inform the hearts of all Our good Subjects, that We shall recover from the mischief and danger of this distemper, On whose good pleasure We will wait with patience and humility.

For the bringing up of the Army to London, as we have heretofore (by no other direction, then the testimony of a good conscience) called God to witnesse We never had or knew of any such resolution, so upon the view of the Depositions now published with that Declaration, It is not evident to Us, there was ever such a designe, unlesse very loose discourse or argument be instance enough of such a designe.

And if no better effects then losse of time, and hinderance of the publicke affaires have been found by Our Answers and Replies, let all good men judge, by whose default, and whose want of duty such effects have been.

And We call Almighty God to witneſſe, all Our complaints and jealouſies, which have never been cauſeleſſe, nor of Our Houſes of Parliament, but of ſome few Schiſmaticall, factious, and ambitious ſpirits: Our deniall of the *Militia*, Our abſenting Our Self from London have been the effects of an upright and faithfull affection to our Engliſh Subjects, that We may be able, through all the inconveniences We are compelled to wreſtle with, at laſt to reſtore their Religion, Lawes, and Liberties unto them.

We deſire Our actions may no longer proſper, or have a bleſſing from God upon them and Us, then they ſhall be directed to the glory of God in the maintenance of the true Proteſtant Profeſſion, to the preſervation of the Property, and liberty of the ſubjects in the obſervation of the Lawes, and the maintenance of the Rights and Freedome of Parliament, in the allowance and protection of all their juſt priviledges.

We would have you to be aſſured, that We never intended the leaſt neglect unto you in any former Summons of the county, Our love, as well as Our protection extending to all Our Subjects; but as you are a great body, time and conveniencie muſt be obſerved in your aſſembling.

That you may know the generall reaſons of Our being here, you muſt underſtand, that when We found it neither ſafe nor honourable, to expoſe Our Perſon to the tumultuous and licentious proceedings of many (which to this day are unpuniſhed) Who did diſorderly approach near Our Court at White Hall, We truſted this part of Our Dominions chiefly to reſide in, where as moſt of the Gentry already have, ſo We aſſure Our Self, the reſt of you will give Us clear teſtimony of your ſervice and obedience, which We will never uſe otherwiſe then for the defence of Our orthodox Religion, profeſſed and ſetled in Queene *Eliſabeths* time, and confirmed by the authority of the Statutes of this Realme, the defence of the Lawes and fundamentall Conſtitutions of the Kingdome (as the juſteſt meaſure and rule for Our Prerogative, your Liberties and Rights) and laſtly for the preſervation of the peace of this Kingdome.

As for own zeale to the Proteſtant profeſſion, We referre all the world to Our daily exerciſe of, and Our Declarations concerning it, and execution of the Lawes againſt the Papiſts, ſo likewiſe We cannot but declare Our Self moſt heartily ſory to find ſuch Separatiſts, and Schiſmaticks, who preſume againſt Law, to foment new doctrines and diſciplines, to the diſturbance of Church and State. For the Law, it being the common inheritance of Our people, We ſhall never inforce any Prerogative of Ours beyond it, but ſubmit Our Self to it, and give you and all Our Subjects the fulleſt latitude of it, both for the liberty of your perſons, and the propriety of your eſtates, and for an inviolable confidence and aſſurance hereof, as We take God (the ſearcher of all hearts) to witneſſe Our reall intention herein, ſo We ſhall no longer deſire you to ſtand for the defence of Our Perſon, Honour, and juſt Prerogatives, then We ſhall maintaine the Lawes of the Land, the liberty of your perſons, and propriety of your goods.

For

For the resort of Papists to the Court, His Majesties great care for the prevention thereof, is notoriously known, that when he was informed two or three of His Guard were of that Religion, He gave speciall direction, with expressions of His displeasure, that they should be immediately discharged, and provided that no person should attend on him under that relation, but such as took the oath of Allegiance and Supremacie.

There having been many rumours spread, and informations given, which may have induced many to believe, that We intend to make warre against Our Parliament.

We professe before God, and declare to all the world, that We alwaies have and do abhorre all such designes, and desire all our Nobility and councell, who are here upon the place, to declare whether they have not beene witnesses of Our frequent and earnest Declarations and professions to this purpose, whether they see any colour of Preparations or Counsells that might reasonably beget a belief of any such designe; and whether they bee not fully perswaded, that We have no such intention, but that all Our endeavours (according to Our many professions) tend to the firm and constant settlement of the true Protestant Religion, the just priviledges of Parliament, the liberty of the Subject, Peace and prosperity of this Kingdome.

The God of Heaven direct you, and in mercy divert those judgements which hang over this Nation, and so deale with us, and Our posterity, as We desire the preservation and advancement of the true Protestant Religion, the Law, and the Liberty of the Subject, the just Rights of Parliament, and the Peace of the Kingdome.

The Declaration and Profession of the Lords and others of His Majesties most Honourable Privy Councell, disavowing any Preparations or intentions in His Majesty to leavy warre against his PARLIAMENT.

WE whose Names are underwritten, in Obedience to His Majesties desire, and out of the Duty which we owe to his Majesties Honour, and to Truth, being here upon the place, and Witnesses of His Majesties frequent and earnest Declarations and professions of His abhorring all Designes of making Warre upon His Parliament, and not seeing any colour of Preparations or Counsells that might reasonably beget the belief of any such Design,

do

[illegible] Before God, and testifie to all the World, that we are fully per-[illegible] Majesty hath no such Intention, but that all His Endea-[illegible] to the firm and constant settlement of the true Protestant Religi-[illegible] Priviledges of Parliament, the Liberty of the Subject, the Law, [illegible] and prosperity of this Kingdome.

Lo. Keeper.
Dr. Richmond.
Marq. Hertford.
Lo. Gr. Chamberlain.
Ea. Cumberland.
Ea. Bathe.
Ea. Southampton.
Ea. Dorset.
Ea. Salisbury.
Ea. Northampton.
Ea. Devonshire.
Ea. Cambridge.
Ea. Bristoll.
Ea. Clare.
Ea. Westmerland.
Ea. Barkshire.
Ea. Monmouth.
Ea. Rivers.
Ea. Dover.
Ea. Carnarvan.
Ea. Newport.

Lo. Mowbray and Matravers.
Lo. Willoughby of Eresby.
Lo. Grey of Ruthin.
Lo. Howard, Andover.
Lo. Newarck.
Lo. Poulet.
Lo. Lovelace.
Lo Rich.
Lo. Savile.
Lo. Mohun.
Lo. Coventry.
Lo. Dunsmore.
Lo. Seymour.
Lo. Capell.
Lo. Falkland.
Sir Peter Wych Comptroller.
Mr. Secretary Nicholas.
Mr. Chancellour of the Exchequer.
Lo. Chief Justice Banks.

FINIS.